



McHenry County Monthly Opioid Surveillance Report June 2021

McHenry County Department of Health (MCDH) Opioid Surveillance and Response (OSR) Program monitors opioid use via several surveillance systems, including: 1) overdose deaths obtained from the McHenry County Coroner's Office (MCCO), 2) opioid-related emergency department (ED) visits obtained through the Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics (ESSENCE), 3) emergency medical services (EMS) encounters obtained from the Illinois Prehospital Database and 4) opioid and opioid analog exposures from the Illinois Poison Center (IPC). Together these systems give a detailed picture of the trends in opioid use for McHenry County (note: suicides and attempted suicides are excluded from all data sources mentioned above). Mortality and ED visit frequencies less than 10 are suppressed to protect confidentiality. Opioid surveillance is conducted year-round. All data are provisional and subject to change. MCDH thanks all of our surveillance partners for their efforts in collecting this information.

Key Takeaways

- Those 30-49 account for 50% of opioid overdose deaths year-to-date.
- ED visits remain below baseline. Those 30-39 make up more than a third of ED visits year-to-date.
- EMS encounters have slowed and are now under baseline. Nearly a third of encounters year-to-date are 20-29 years old.
- IPC exposures remain slightly above the baseline.

Indicator	YTD Jan	YTD Feb	YTD Mar	YTD Apr	YTD May	YTD Jun	YTD Jul	YTD Aug	YTD Sep	YTD Oct	YTD Nov	YTD Dec
Opioid Overdose Deaths ¹	<10*	<10*	<10*	14	19	24						
Opioid Overdose Deaths Baseline	3	7	9	12	16	19						
ED Visits ²	13	25	34	54	71	87						
ED Visits Baseline	16	35	57	73	86	113						
EMS Encounters ³	<10*	11	19	26	31	40						
EMS Encounters Baseline	5	11	16	22	27	44						
IPC Opioid Exposure ⁴	5	7	8	9	12	14						
IPC Opioid Exposure Baseline	1	5	6	8	9	12						

* suppressed to protect confidentiality

** The year-to-date (YTD) is a running total of cases beginning with the first day of the calendar year up to the end of the current month. Trends in opioid use are compared to the baseline (baseline is calculated as the year-to-date median of retrospective data).

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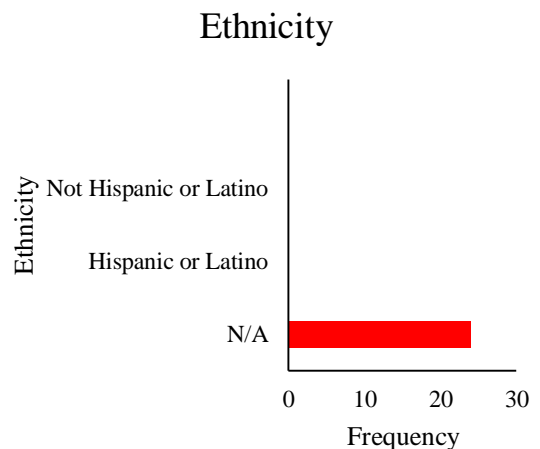
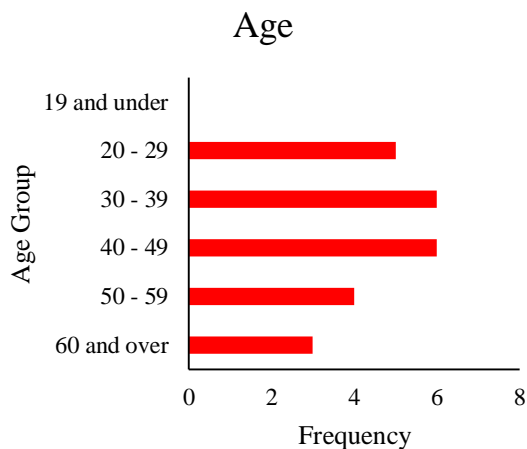
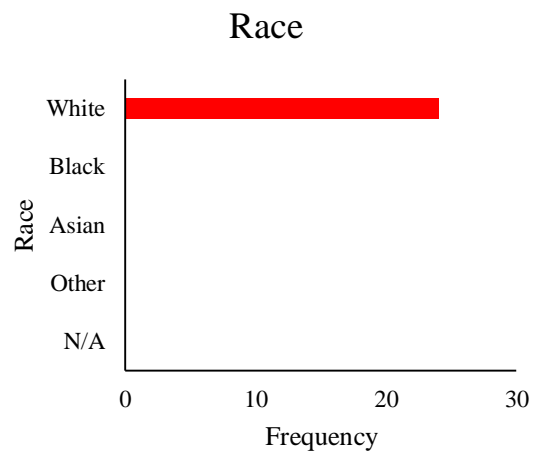
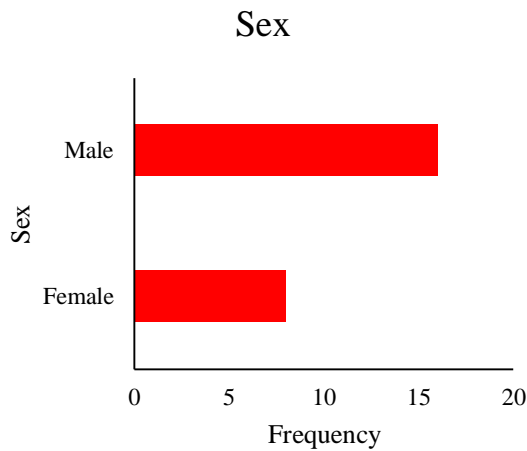
INDICATOR SUMMARY

An in-depth review of the opioid surveillance indicators is presented below. Each of the following indicators examines data by frequency to explore the burden of opioid overdoses in the community. Differences in frequency of opioid overdoses by sex, race, age, and ethnicity do not necessarily represent disparities. In order to investigate disparities, the proportion of overdoses within each demographic group would be used. This report examines the burden of opioid overdoses in the community, but does not examine disparities.

Opioid Overdose Deaths YTD ¹

Opioid overdose death data is provided by McHenry County Coroner's Office.

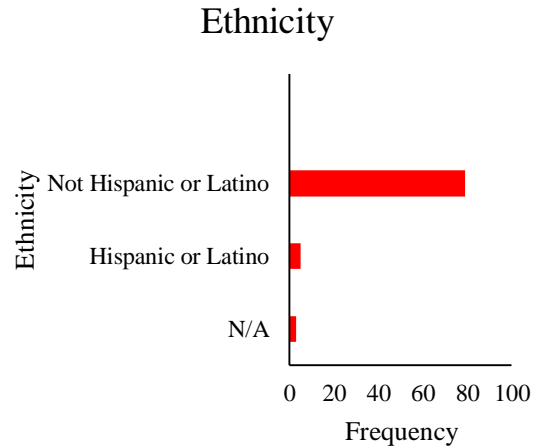
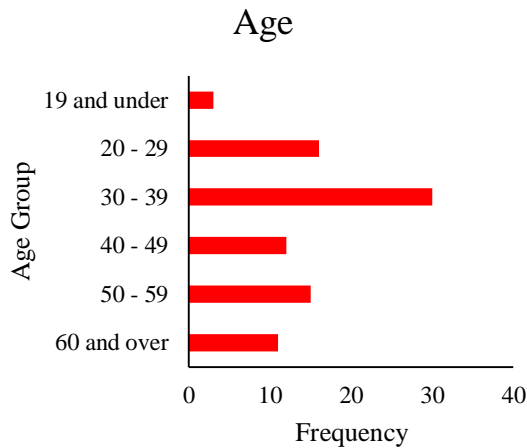
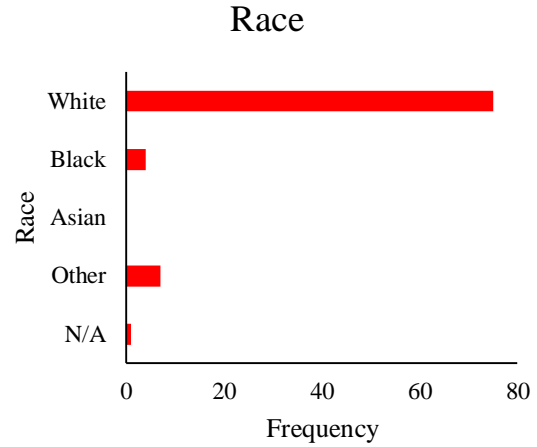
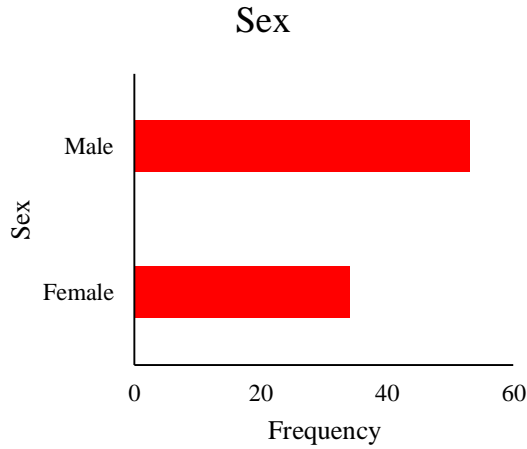
Cases with an opioid listed in the cause of death were included. Cases determined to be a suicide were excluded. In accordance with the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 242m(d)), cell counts under 10 are suppressed and no visualizations will be included until the YTD total exceeds 10.



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Emergency Department Visits YTD ²

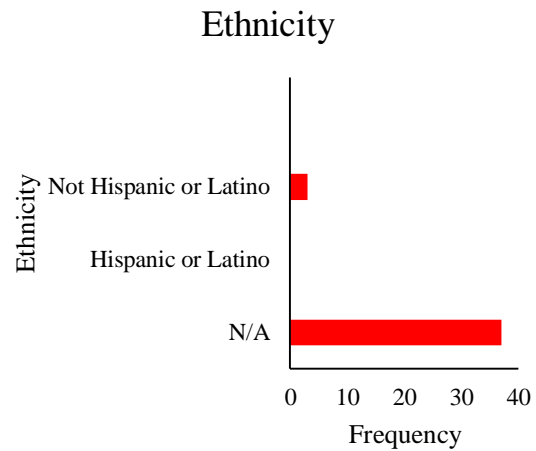
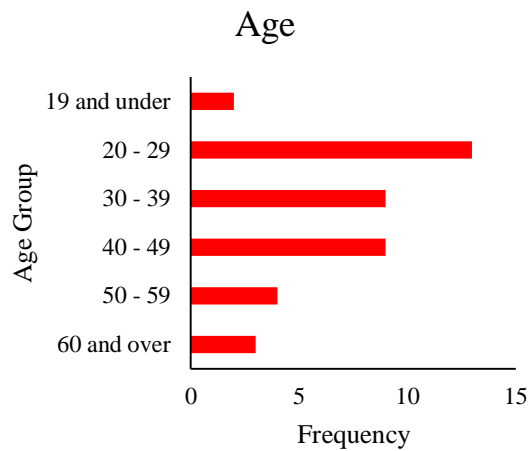
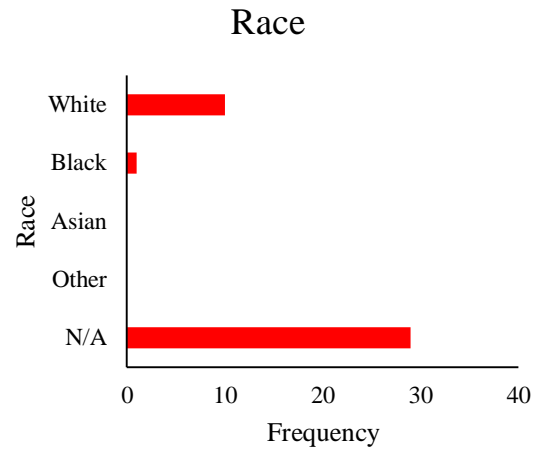
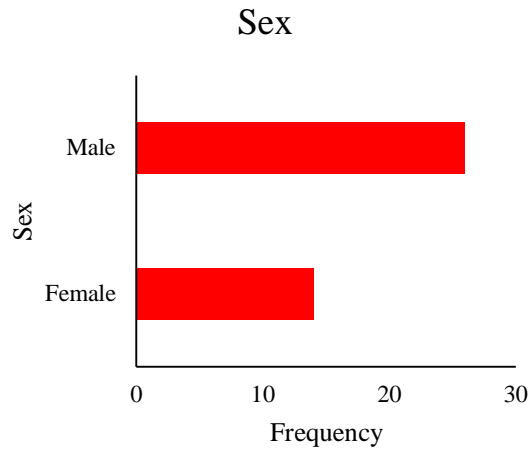
ED visit data is obtained through the Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics (ESSENCE). Through this system, developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, we track overdoses of McHenry County residents. Charts detailing the demographics of YTD ED visits are below.



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Illinois Prehospital Database ³

McHenry County EMS encounter data is provided by the Illinois Department of Public Health. Through the Illinois Prehospital Database, we are able to access EMS data in a central location.



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Illinois Poison Center Opioid Exposures⁴

Opioid exposure data is accessed through the National Poison Data System (NPDS). The NPDS is the data warehouse for every poison control center in the nation. There were 2 exposures in June. The opioids reported were fentanyl and tramadol.

¹ Overdose death data has the following limitations: data is not real-time and some case investigations are pending toxicology.

² Emergency department data has the following limitations: though data is near real-time, there is lag time in the system processing ED visits; data quality also depends on the completeness of hospital reporting.

³ Illinois Prehospital Data has the following limitations: overdoses are suspected and not confirmed. Additionally, there are incomplete race/ethnicity entries at this time.

⁴ Illinois Poison Center has the following limitations: overdoses captured by this system are limited by severity (system captures lower severity data).

Additional resources:

- CDC, [Understanding the Epidemic](#)
- CDC, [NSSP BioSense Platform](#)
- Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), [Opioid Data Dashboard](#)
- Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), [Prehospital Data Program](#)
- Illinois Poison Center, [Poison Prevention Education](#)

For additional information contact the McHenry County Department of Health at health@mchenrycountyil.gov.